

International Technical Workshop on Gadoid Capture by Pots (GACAPOT)

4 November 2006, Gloucester, Massachusetts, USA

Fish pots, baited structures for capturing fish, are an alternative gear with ideal or near-ideal qualities, including low impact on habitat, narrow species selection and low capture and discard mortalities. Research on pots targeting Atlantic cod *Gadus morhua* has recently been conducted in Canada, Faeroe Islands, Norway, and the US. Research on pots targeting haddock *Melanogrammus aeglefinus* and saithe/pollock *Pollachius virens* has also been conducted in Norway and the US. Further, an ICES Study Group on the Development of Fish Pots for Commercial Fisheries and Survey Purposes [SGPOT] has been proposed.

A commercial fishery for Pacific cod *Gadus macrocephalus* has been established. However, for other gadoids improved catch rates are needed to reach commercial viability. This workshop will focus on determining basic principles for potting gadoid species by examining the current state of research on gadoid capture in pots and assessing the direction of future research for improving catch rates.

A one-day meeting will be held on Saturday, 4 November, 2006 in historic Gloucester, Massachusetts, USA, following the ICES Symposium in Boston. A morning session will consist of invited talks from speakers, focusing on their understanding of the principles of gadoid capture. The afternoon session will consist of a focused discussion for defining essential pot characteristics and directing future research. Lunch will be provided to all participants. The workshop is primarily intended for researchers actively studying pot capture of gadoids, including technical staff and fishermen, and secondarily for those interested in pots in general.

Apply as early as possible, but before 13 October, 2006 to Michael Pol as space will be limited to 55 participants.